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Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know if the Government are prepared to expedite the various processes mentioned in the answer and to bring this Bill at the time of the next meeting ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The criticism directed against the Government was that people did not know what the Bill was. That is why we are distributing copies in Malayalam ; what is being done is to give the people time to consider the Bill. The present delay is due to that."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Apart from what has been done in the past . . . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is requested to put the supplementary question."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I ask whether the Government will complete the various processes mentioned in the answer and bring the Bill in the January meeting ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Since January is only two months from now, it may not be possible to do so then ; it may be possible a little later."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know what the approximate time will be ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Predictions in this matter have been so falsified that I may be excused if I do not make another."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With regard to the conference with the representatives of tenants and janmis, may I know whether they are going to be elected or appointed ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" That is one of the difficulties in the matter, as to how they should be elected or nominated. The purpose is to see whether some of the objections against the present proposals cannot be met by modifications of the Bill."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Is it a joint conference of tenants and janmis ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Joint."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Joint free conference ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Free and open."

Progress of the Estates Land Act (Amendment) Bill.

* 755-E Q.—Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the stage in which the consideration of the Estates Land Act (Amendment) Bill is ;

(b) whether the report of the Estates Land Act Committee has been sent to the Board of Revenue for their opinion ; and if so, when ;

(c) whether the Board of Revenue have sent their opinion ;

(d) whether it is a fact that a Member of the Board of Revenue always sat on the Committee ;

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(*e*) whether the Government would place the opinion of the Board on the table, if it has been received; and

(*f*) if not, whether they would request the Board to hasten the submission of their opinion?

A.—(*a*) Certain matters relating to the Bill have been referred to the Board of Revenue for report;

(*b*) Yes; on 16th July 1928.

(*c*) & (*e*) The answer to clause (*c*) is in the negative.

(*d*) Yes; but of the three members of the Board who served on the Committee two have retired and the third served for only 6 months and has recently been incapacitated by illness.

(*f*) This has been done.

Legislative

Privileges to Fellows of the Madras University in elections to the Legislative Council.

* 756 *Q.*—Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is proposed to take the necessary steps to amend the rules and regulations governing elections to the Legislative Council so that the past and present Fellows of the Madras University may be given the same privileges as are conferred on them in the case of elections to the Council of State?

A.—The revision of the electoral rules requires the previous sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State-in-Council. The suggestion will be borne in mind if and when the general question of a revision of the electorate is taken up.

Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to take steps to make representations on this behalf to the Government of India as it will be too late for the next elections if the steps are not taken now?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I do not understand what the hon. Member means by 'steps'. It will be brought to the notice of the Commission."

Reforms

Evidence before the Simon Commission.

* 757-A *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether this Government propose to let oral evidence before the Simon Commission;

(*b*) if so, whom they have proposed or propose for giving evidence before that Commission; and

(*c*) whether any evidence is proposed to be let before the Commission either by or on behalf of the Ministers?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government has come to no decision on these points.